

wherein:

R is a carboxylic acid;

R¹ is an optionally substituted pyridyl group;

Alk¹ is an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ aliphatic chain or C₁₋₆ heteroaliphatic chain containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups;

L^1 is $-O-$, $-S-$, $-C(O)-$, $-C(O)O-$, $-C(S)-$, $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^5)-$, $-CON(R^5)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^5)-$, $-CSN(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)CO-$, $-N(R^5)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^5)CS-$, $-S(O)N(R^5)-$, $-S(O)_2N(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)S(O)-$, $-N(R^5)S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^5)CON(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)CSN(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)SON(R^5)-$, or $-N(R^5)SO_2N(R^5)-$;

R^5 is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group;

r and s , which may be the same or different, is each zero or an integer 1 ;

Alk² is a straight or branched alkylene chain;

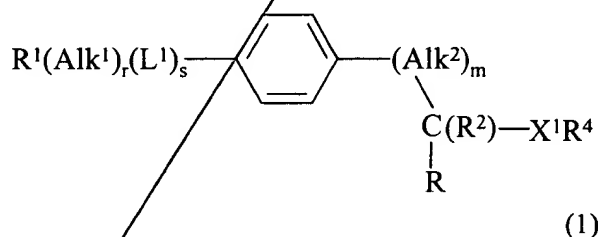
m is zero or an integer 1;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

X¹ is a group selected from -N(R³)CO-, (where R³ is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group); -N(R³)SO₂-, -N(R³)C(O)O- or -N(R³)CON(R^{3a})- (where R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group);

R^4 is an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic, C_{3-10} cycloaliphatic or C_{7-10} polycycloaliphatic group;
and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

14. (Amended Twice) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a disease or disorder involving inflammation in which the extravasation of leukocytes plays a role in a mammal, which comprises administering to a mammal suffering from such a disease or disorder a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (1):



wherein:

R is a carboxylic acid (CO_2H);

R^1 is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl, straight or branched alkoxy or optionally substituted pyridyl group;

Alk^1 is an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic chain or C_{1-6} heteroaliphatic chain containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups;

L^1 is $-O-$, $-S-$, $-C(O)-$, $-C(O)O-$, $-C(S)-$, $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^5)-$, $-CON(R^5)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^5)-$, $-CSN(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)CO-$, $-N(R^5)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^5)CS-$, $-S(O)N(R^5)-$,